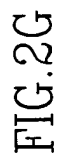
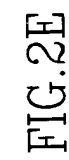
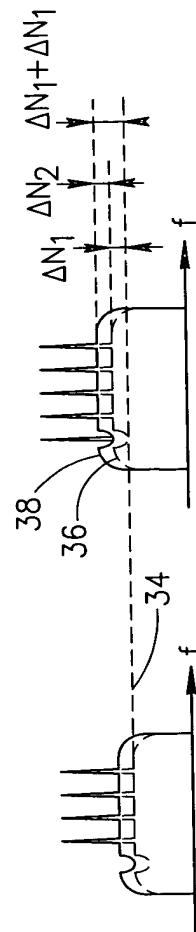
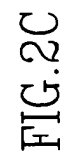
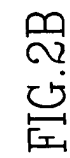
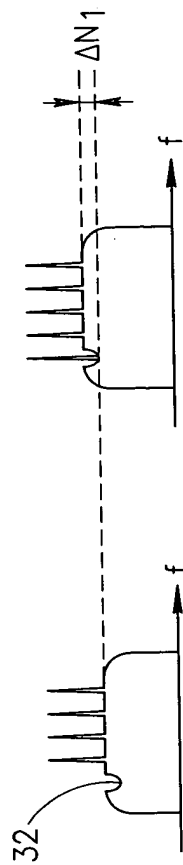
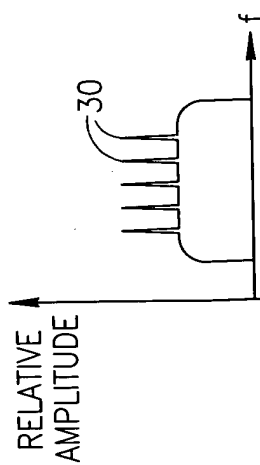


FIG.1
PRIOR ART



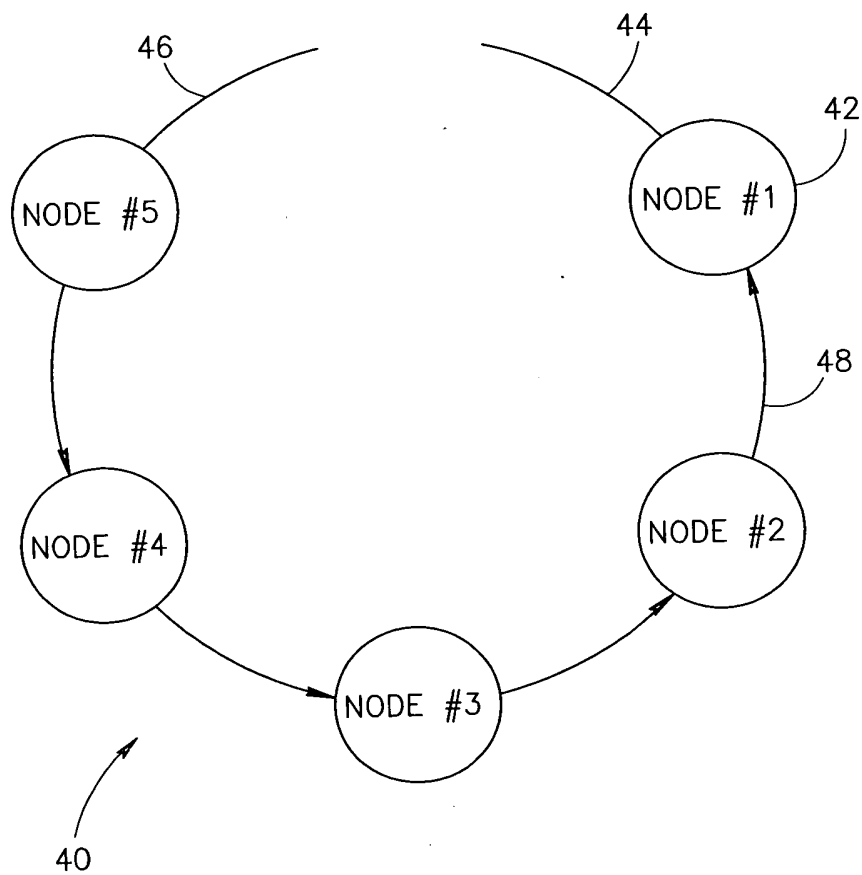


FIG.3
PRIOR ART

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a network topology in accordance with the present invention. The network topology includes a plurality of nodes (50) connected in a ring configuration. Each node (50) includes a demultiplexer (56), a plurality of optical-to-electrical converters (58), a plurality of electrical-to-optical converters (62), a plurality of electrical repeaters (60), and a multiplexer (64). The network topology is configured such that data is transmitted from one node to the next in a ring configuration. The network topology is configured such that data is transmitted from one node to the next in a ring configuration.

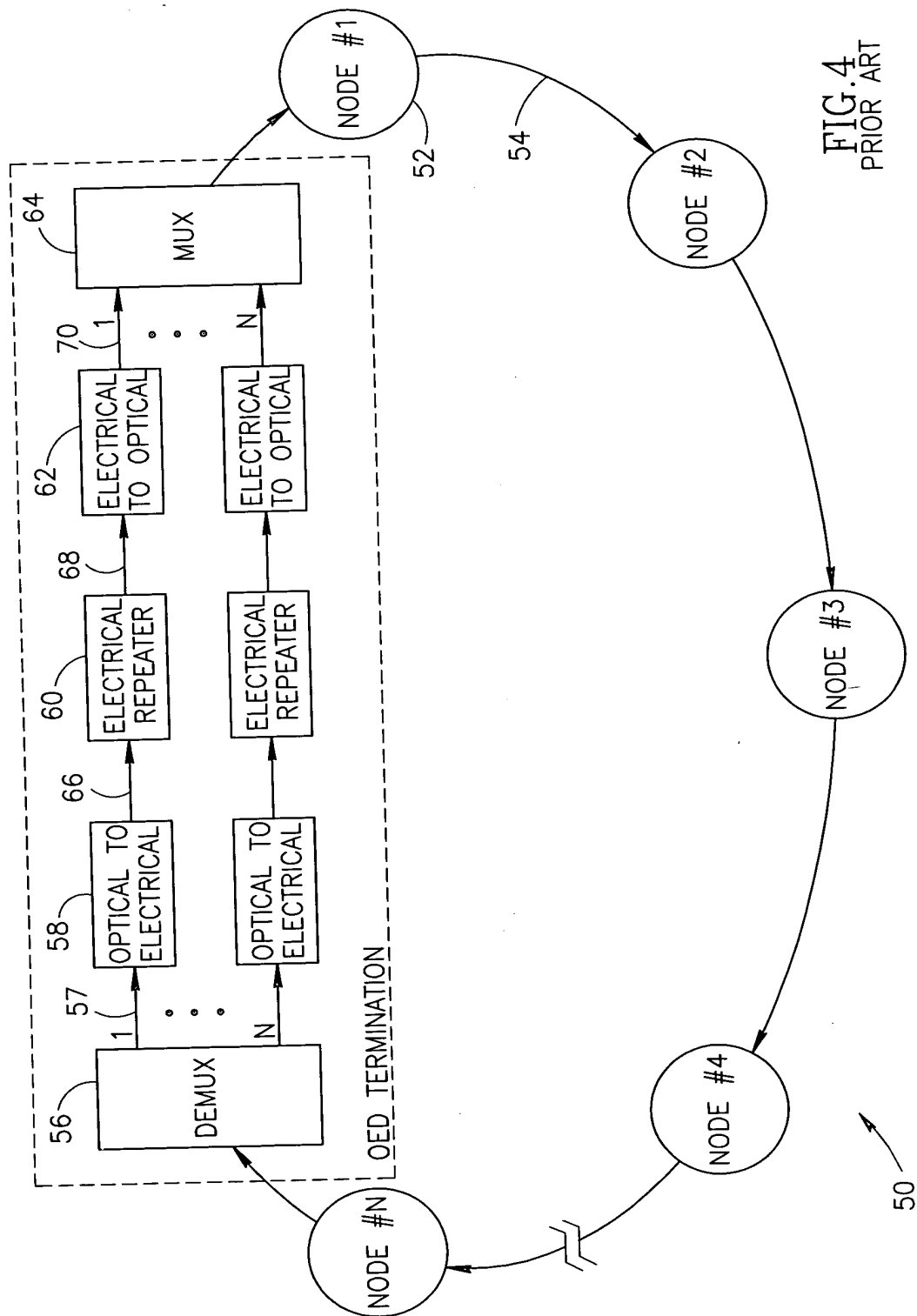


FIG. 4
PRIOR ART

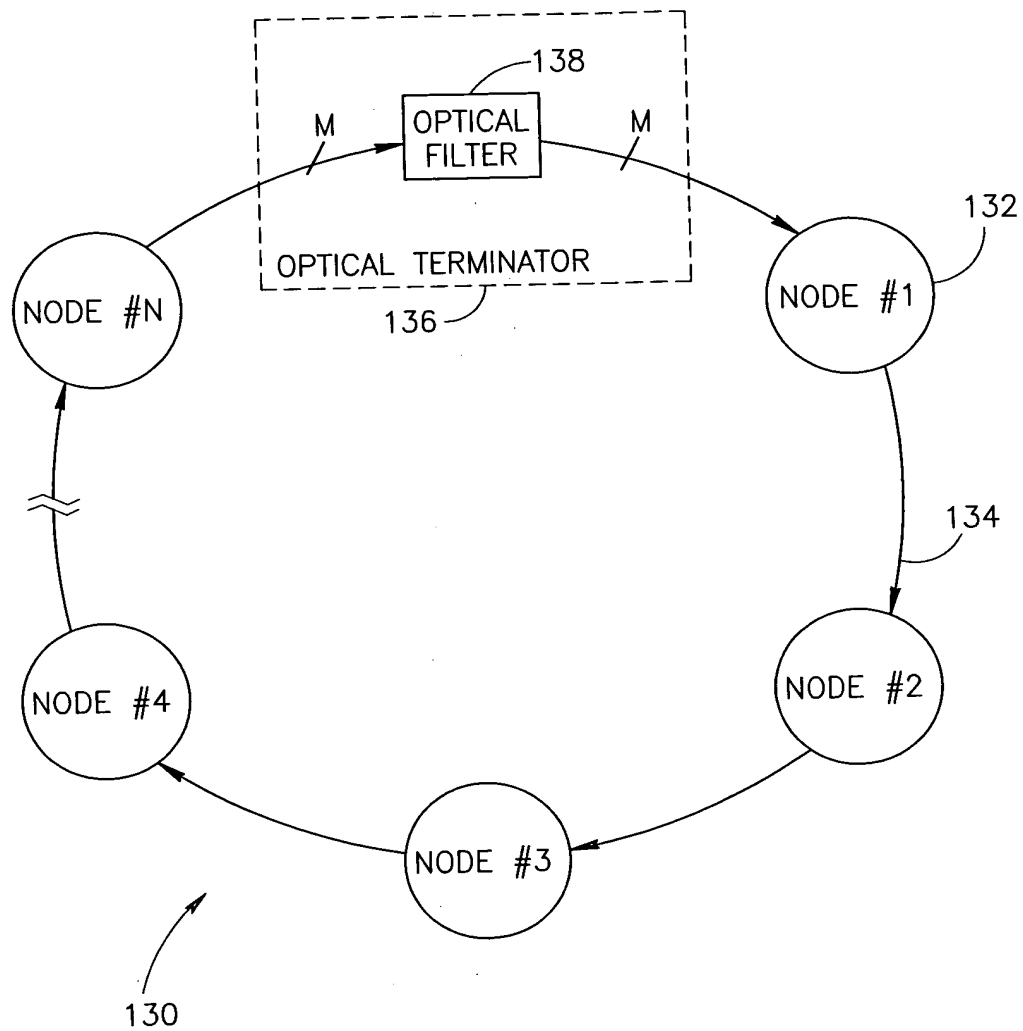


FIG.5

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram of a network topology. The network includes a central optical terminator 86, which is a dashed box containing a demultiplexer (DEMUX) 88 and a multiplexer (MUX) 92. The DEMUX 88 has M outputs, labeled 1 through M, and the MUX 92 has M inputs, labeled 1 through M. The network also includes N nodes, labeled NODE #1, NODE #2, NODE #3, NODE #4, and NODE #N. The nodes are connected in a ring topology. The connection between NODE #1 and NODE #2 is labeled 84. The connection between NODE #2 and NODE #3 is labeled 80. The connection between NODE #3 and NODE #4 is labeled 80. The connection between NODE #4 and NODE #N is labeled 80. The connection between NODE #N and NODE #1 is labeled 80. The connection between NODE #N and the DEMUX 88 is labeled 80. The connection between the MUX 92 and NODE #1 is labeled 80.

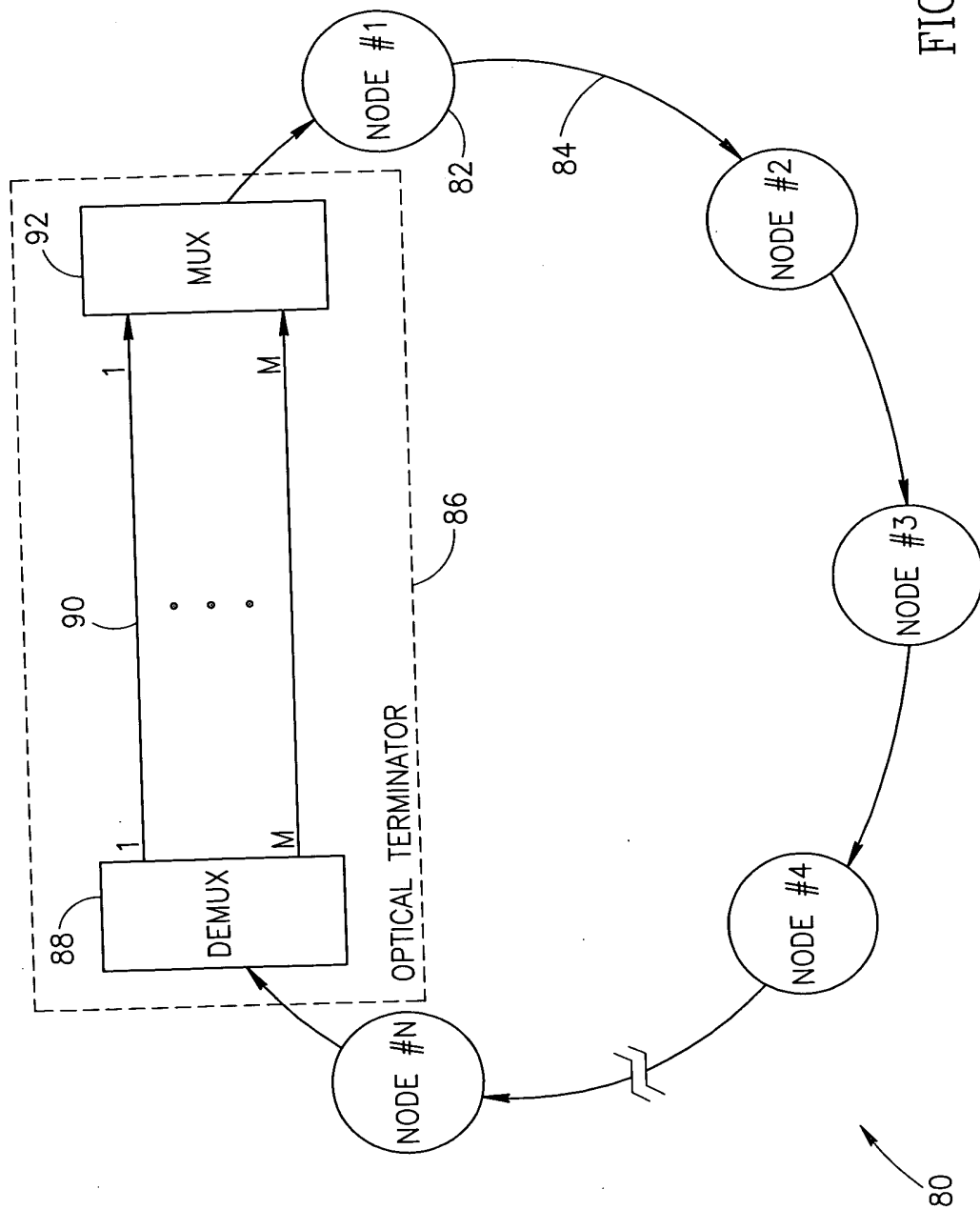
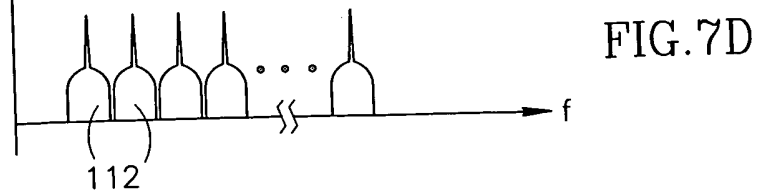
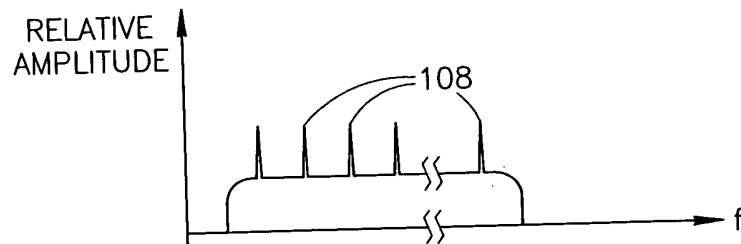
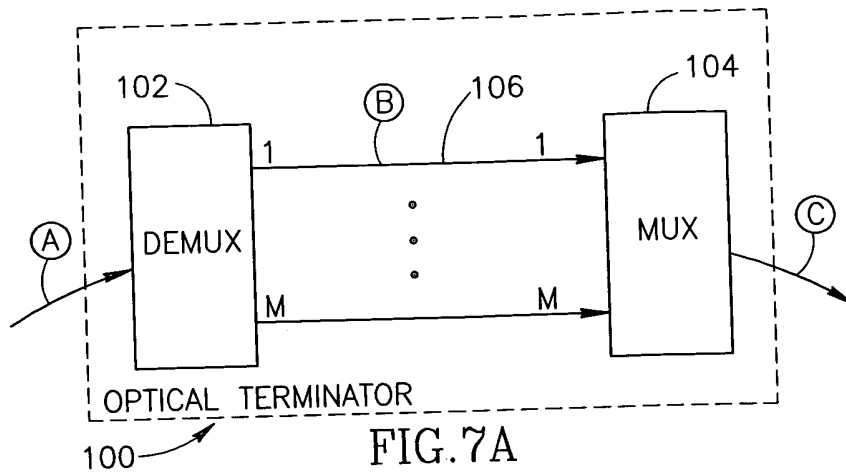


FIG. 6



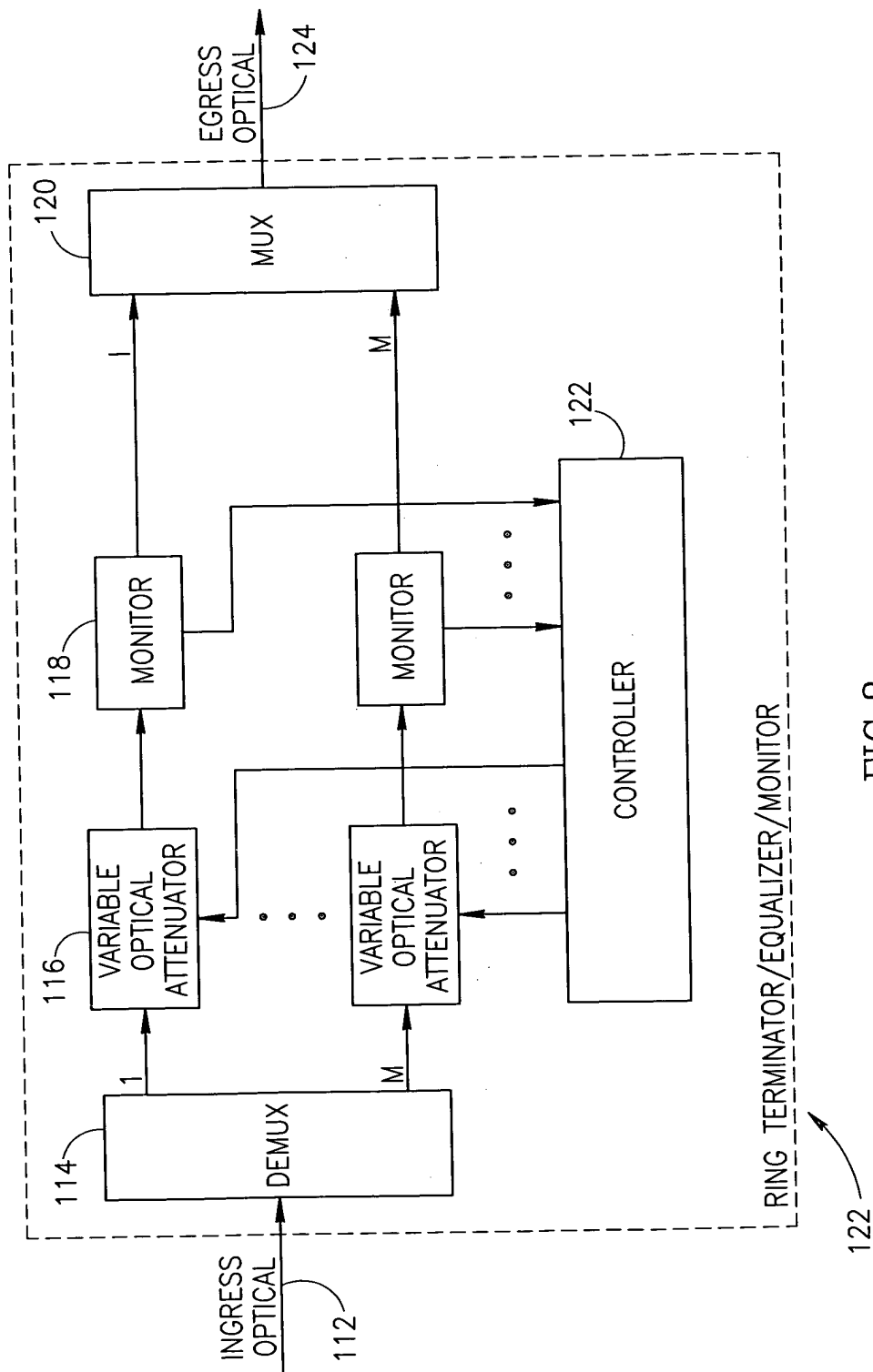


FIG.8